

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
March 1994

## FACT SHEET

**EXHIBITION**            **AMERICAN POLITICIANS**

**DATES**                October 6 - January 3, 1994

**ORGANIZATION**       Susan Kismaric, Curator, Department of Photography, The  
Museum of Modern Art

**CONTENT**             This exhibition examines the ways in which photography has  
illustrated and affected American politics. **AMERICAN  
POLITICIANS** considers such issues as the impact of new  
technology and examines changing methods of constructing  
imagery, such as the shift from more formal and heroic  
styles of presentation to spontaneous views. One section of  
the exhibition concentrates on Abraham Lincoln, who  
attributed his 1860 election victory to Mathew Brady's  
photograph of himself. Among other themes in the largely-  
chronological presentation are the campaign trail and  
political leisure, ceremony, and speech-making.

Approximately 150 photographs from museums, archives,  
historical societies, private collections, and commercial  
agencies are included. A large number have been secured  
from places that do not usually lend. The selections range  
from famous photographs, such as that of the triumphant  
Harry Truman holding the newspaper headlining his defeat by  
Dewey and Lyndon Johnson showing his scar, to relatively  
unknown ones. While photographs of elected officials  
predominate, significant non-elected figures such as Martin  
Luther King are also represented. Clips from the  
Nixon/Kennedy debate and a compilation of campaign  
commercials highlight the impact of television on the  
political process.

**PUBLICATION**        *American Politicians*, by Susan Kismaric.  
Published by The Museum of Modern Art.

**TRAVEL**                A national tour is planned.

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For further information, contact Rynn Williams, Department of Public  
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